

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action dated May 8, 2007 in which the Examiner rejected claims 31, 54 and 77 under 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph, rejected claims 1-2, 6-9, 13-15, 17-21, 26-30, 34-36, 39-44, 49-53, 57-59, 62-67, 72-76 and 80-82 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and objected to claims 3-5, 10-12, 16, 22-25, 45-48, 68-71 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

As indicated above, minor informalities in claims 31, 54 and 77 have been corrected. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the rejection to the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph.

Claims 1-2, 6-9, 13-15, 17-21, 26-30, 34-36, 39-44, 49-53, 57-59, 62-67, 72-76 and 80-82 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Kondo et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,606, 111).

As indicated above, objected to claim 3 has been incorporated into claim 1, objected to claim 22 has been incorporated into claims 17, 39, and 62, objected to claim 45 has been incorporated into claim 40 and objected to claim 68 has been incorporated with claim 63. Furthermore, claim 31 has been incorporated into claim 26, claim 54 has been incorporated into claim 49, and claim 77 has been incorporated into claim 72. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection to claims 1-2, 6-9, 13-15, 17-21, 26-30, 34-36, 39-44, 49-53, 57-59, 62-67, 72-76 and 80-82 no longer applies. Applicants, therefore respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the rejection to the claims and allows the claims to issue.

As indicated above, since the objected to claims 3, 22, 45 and 68 have been incorporated into the independent claims, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the objection to claims 4-5, 10-12, 16, 23-25, 46-48 and 69-71.

The prior art of record, which is not relied upon, is acknowledged. The references taken singularly or in combination do not anticipate or make obvious the claimed invention.

CONCLUSION

Thus it now appears that the application is in condition for reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.


If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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